

RCP Air Quality Chapter

Draft Goals, Outcomes and Action Plan

Goals

- Reduce emissions of criteria pollutants to help attain federal air quality standards by prescribed dates and state ambient air quality standards as soon as practicable.
- Reverse current trends in greenhouse gas emissions to support sustainability goals for energy, water supply, agriculture, and other resource areas.
- Minimize land uses that increase risk of adverse air pollution-related health impacts from exposure to toxic air contaminants, particulates (PM10, PM2.5, ultrafine), and carbon monoxide.
- Expand green building practices to reduce energy-related emissions from development.

Outcomes

- Attain the federal 8-hour ozone standard by the dates specified in the 2007 AQMPs for the respective non-attainment areas:
 - South Coast Air Basin by 2024
 - Coachella Valley by 2019
 - Antelope Valley and Western Mojave Desert by 2019 or 2021 (to be determined by ARB by fall 2007)
 - Ventura County by 2013 or 2017 (to be determined by ARB by fall 2007)
 - Imperial County by 2007
- Attain the federal PM2.5 standards in the South Coast Air Basin by 2015 as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- Amend local government General Plans to restrict future growth of residences and other sensitive receptors near major sources of toxic air contaminants and other hazardous air pollutants (e.g., freeways, railyards, and industrial facilities).

- All cities in the region adopt green building standards by 2012.

ACTION PLAN

Constrained Actions

AQ-1. Implement control measures from local Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs)

- AQ-1.1** SCAG shall ensure that transportation plans, programs, and projects are consistent with State air quality plans for attaining and maintaining the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- AQ-1.2** SCAG shall ensure compliance with the Transportation Conformity Rule, which include the new air quality standards for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and 8-hour Ozone.
- AQ-1.3** SCAG shall ensure that there is continued development of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB).
- AQ-1.4** Local governments should accelerate turnover of older, more polluting mobile and stationary source equipment.

AQ-2. Identify new SIP control strategies that reduce the amount of undefined emission reductions necessary to reach attainment.

- AQ-2.1** SCAG shall coordinate with U.S. EPA, the California Air Resources Board, local air districts, and other stakeholders to develop consensus on how to identify discrete control measures that replace the undefined reductions in attainment plans.

AQ-3. Support and pursue environmentally sustainable strategies that implement and complement climate change goals and outcomes.

- AQ-3.1** SCAG will develop policies that support the greenhouse gas emissions targets set forth in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), which requires a reduction in global warming emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- AQ-3.2** SCAG will participate in the development of rules to implement ARB's three Group 1 "discrete early action greenhouse gas reduction measures." These include the proposed Low Carbon Fuel Standard, reduction of refrigerant losses from motor vehicle air conditioning maintenance, and increased methane capture from landfills.
- AQ-3.3** SCAG will participate in the development of ARB's twenty Group 2, non-regulatory activities and greenhouse gas regulations that will be enforceable after January 1, 2010, including electrification, phase two vehicle standards, and more refrigerant controls.

- AQ-3.4** SCAG will participate in the development of ARB's ten Group 3 "traditional control measures" that aimed to reduce criteria and toxic air pollutants which have concurrent climate co-benefits.
- AQ-3.5** Local governments should update their General Plans to address the requirements of AB 32. This should include an inventory of 1990 emissions of greenhouse gases and a strategy for reducing 2020 emissions to those levels.
- AQ-3.6** SCAG will provide assistance to local governments on how to address climate change issues in General Plan updates.

AQ-4. Develop policies that discourage the location of sensitive receptors that expose humans to adverse air quality impacts.

- AQ-4.1** SCAG shall assist local governments develop policies that minimize exposure of sensitive receptors and sites (e.g. schools, hospitals, and residences) to major sources of air pollution, including diesel particulate matter emissions, such high-traffic freeways and roads, rail yards, ports, and industrial facilities.
- AQ-4.2** Local governments should amend General Plans, zoning ordinances, business licensing, and related land use permitting processes to minimize human health impacts from exposure of sensitive receptors to local sources of air pollution. Jurisdictions should consider applicable guidance documents, such as CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* and the South Coast AQMD's *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*.

AQ-5. Practice and promote sustainable building practices.

- AQ-5.1** SCAG shall disseminate information about energy efficiency and green building programs and energy use reduction, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Program, the Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Equipment Exchange Program, and U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Program through the SCAG web site, web links to other programs, and educational workshops and presentations.
- AQ-5.2** SCAG shall adopt a policy to strive for carbon neutrality for its own facilities and operations.
- AQ-5.3** Local governments should adopt policies that strive for carbon neutrality for their own facilities and operations.
- AQ-5.4** SCAG shall utilize its IGR process to recommend utilization of green building practices as potential mitigation measures.
- AQ-5.5** SCAG, shall engage both private and public sectors to assist local government in the creation of green business certification program for businesses that want to reduce energy usage.
- AQ-5.6** In updating their General Plans and/or zoning ordinances, local governments should encourage the use of green building practices, which include

incorporating LEED design standards and utilizing energy efficient, recycled-content and locally harvested or procured materials.

- AQ-5.7** Local governments should develop incentive programs (e.g. density bonuses) to encourage green building and resource and energy conservation in development practices.

Strategic Initiatives

- AQ-S-1** SCAG shall work with federal, state, and local stakeholders to identify long-term innovative strategies that can achieve significant emissions reductions from the transportation system, including transformative goods movement strategies.